

Appl. No. 09/729,811
Amdt. Dated 05/11/2005
Reply to Advisory Action of February 24, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

detecting a selected channel or program.

21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

creating automatically the list of favorites to comprise a schedule listing consecutive weekly programs separated by time.

22. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

auto-tuning the list of favorites without user interaction.

23. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

providing access to the list of favorites from more than one device.

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24. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

creating automatically the list of favorites using a changing time scale as the list matures.

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which, if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

detecting a tuning event where a channel is continuously tuned in for over a selected period of time;

maintaining relative statistics on one or more items related to the tuning event by preventing rollover of a count value through adjustment of the count value upon the count value reaching a predetermined value and being reset when the count value is next incremented; and

creating automatically a list of favorites based on the maintained relative statistics.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

providing an alert if an item in the list of favorites is about to be shown or is being shown.

27. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, that further provides instructions, which, if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

maintaining relative statistics on one or more items that include a channel item, a program item, an actor item, a director item, a theme item, or a category item.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is to detect the tuning event by detecting a selected channel or program.

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30. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the list of favorites comprises a schedule listing consecutive weekly programs separated by time.

31. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is to auto-tune the list of favorites without user interaction.

32. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the list of favorites is accessible from more than one device.

33. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is to change the list of favorites using a changing time scale as the list matures.

34. (Previously Presented) A broadcast system comprising:
a display;
a receiver coupled to the display and to store relative statistics, to detect a tuning event, to maintain the relative statistics related to a plurality of items of the tuning event, to prevent rollover of a count value by automatically adjusting the count value of each of the plurality of items relative to each other so that an order of the plurality of items according to count value remains intact, and to create automatically a list of favorites based on the relative statistics in the memory.

35. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is to provide an alert if an item in the list of favorites is about to be shown or is being shown.

36. (Previously Presented) The broadcast system of claim 34, wherein the one or more items include a channel item, a program item, an actor item, a director item, a theme item, or a category item.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for a broadcast system comprising:
detecting a tuning event;

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maintaining relative statistics on one or more items related to the tuning event, the maintaining of the relative statistics includes preventing rollover of count values by adjusting the relative statistics of each item of the one or more items, the rollover being a condition where a count value of a first item of the one or more items, the count value being a relative statistics of the one or more items, reaches a predetermined value before being reset; and

creating a list of favorites based on the maintained relative statistics.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein detecting a tuning event includes detecting a selected channel or program.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the list of favorites comprises a schedule listing consecutive weekly programs separated by time.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the count value of the first item identifies an amount of time that a channel was viewed over a predetermined time interval.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the creating of the list of favorites includes (i) multiplying relative statistics for each item of the one or more items by a weighting factor assigned to the item, and (ii) ranking a predetermined number of items based on the highest weighted values as part of the list of favorites.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the multiplying of the relative statistics includes multiplying a count value for each item of the one or more items by the weighting factor associated with each item.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the preventing of rollover is conducted by adjusting the relative statistics of each item of the one or more items through subtraction of a predetermined value from each count value associated with each item of the one or more items.

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44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the preventing of rollover is conducted by adjusting the relative statistics of each item of the one or more items through subtraction of a predetermined percentage of counts from each count value associated with each item of the one or more items.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the preventing of rollover is conducted by adjusting the relative statistics of each item of the one or more items through multiplication of each count value associated with each item of the one or more items by a percentage value less than one and greater than zero.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
auto-tuning the list of favorites without user interaction.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
providing an alert if an item in the list of favorites is about to be shown or is being shown.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the one or more items include at least two of a program, a channel featuring the program, an actor on the program, a director of the program, a theme of the program, and a year the program was produced.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a front-end including a tuner;
a memory to store relative statistics; and
a processor in communication with the front-end and the memory, the processor to (i) detect a tuning event, (ii) maintain the relative statistics on an item related to the tuning event, the relative statistics include a count value identifying either a number of times or a time interval that the item has been tuned to and received by the front-end, (iii) prevent rollover of the count value by at least adjusting the count value upon reaching a predetermined value prior to being reset, and (iv) create a list of favorites based on the relative statistics in the memory.

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50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor detecting the tuning event by detecting a selected channel or program.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the item includes at least one of a program, a channel number, an actor, a director, a theme, and a year that a selected program was produced.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the list of favorites is accessible by depressing a Favorite key of a remote controller.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the count value of the item identifies an amount of time that a channel was viewed over a predetermined time interval.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor creating the list of favorites by (i) multiplying the relative statistics on the item by a weighting factor assigned to the item, (ii) multiplying stored relative statistics on other items by a corresponding weighting factor assigned to each item, and (iii) ranking all of the items based on the highest weighted values.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor preventing rollover by adjusting the relative statistics on the item through subtraction of a predetermined value from the count value.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor preventing rollover by adjusting the relative statistics on the item through subtraction of a predetermined percentage of counts from the count value.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor preventing rollover by adjusting the relative statistics on the item through multiplication of the count value by a percentage value less than one and greater than zero.